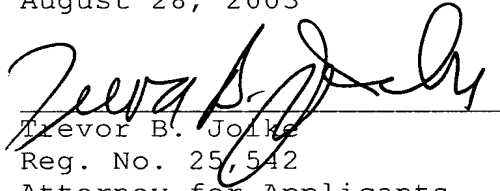


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Probable Group Art Unit:)	August 28, 2003
2634)	
)	
Probable Examiner: K.)	
Kim)	Trevor B. Jolke
)	Reg. No. 25,542
)	Attorney for Applicants

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-6, 9, 14-16, and 45-51 remain in the application. Claims 45-51 were rejected in the parent application as being vague and indefinite. Claims 1-5, 14-16, and 45 were rejected in the parent application over Figure 2 of the present application in view of the McLane patent. Claims 6 and 9 were rejected in the parent application as being unpatentable over the Ayanoglu patent in view of the McLane patent.